

## 2003 Indiana Early Migratory Game Bird Regulations

### License and Stamp Requirements

Anyone hunting migratory gamebirds (ducks, coots, geese, mourning doves, moorhens, snipe, sora rail or woodcock) must have an Indiana hunting license and a HIP registration number. A signed Indiana waterfowl stamp also is required for hunting ducks and geese (the Indiana stamp is covered under comprehensive hunting and youth licenses). Additionally, anyone 16 years old or older must have a signed federal duck stamp when hunting ducks or geese. Landowners or lessees, hunting on farmed land they own or lease, are exempt from these requirements except that a Federal duck stamp is required when hunting waterfowl.

### Order the Federal Duck Stamp 1-877-887-5508

Federal duck stamps can be purchased by phone from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST)

### Harvest Information Program (HIP) 1-800-WETLAND

Licensed hunters in Indiana must register each year with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) before they hunt coots, doves, ducks, moorhens, geese, snipe, sora rails or woodcock.

Hunters must call 1-800-WETLAND toll-free or visit the website at [www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/hip.htm](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/hip.htm) and provide the information requested. The average call takes less than five minutes. At the end of the call, the hunter is given a validation number to record on his or her license. This number is valid from the date of registration through the close of the last 2003-2004 migratory bird hunting season. Lifetime license holders must also register with HIP.

Hunters need only call the number once

each season, not each time they hunt. In addition to providing name and address during the call, hunters are asked questions designed to identify which species they hunted last year and, in some cases, the number of birds they harvested.

HIP is a joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies. The program improves harvest estimates for migratory game birds nationwide. Once the harvest information is gathered, the information is used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the states to ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are soundly based on scientific evidence.

### Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for geese, sora rails, mourning doves, moorhens, woodcock and snipe are 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. Teal shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset.

### Shell Capacity Limit

It is illegal to hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, coots, mergansers, doves, woodcock, sora rails, moorhens or snipe) with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

### Non-toxic Shot Requirements

Hunters are required to use approved non-toxic shot while hunting all waterfowl. As of this printing, non-toxic shots currently approved for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron and steel shot. Copper-plated, zinc chromate-plated, zinc chloride-plated and nickel-plated steel shot is approved as long as the plating represents less than one

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percent of the shot's weight. Lead shot plated with copper, nickel or other material does not qualify. It is illegal to possess shells loaded with anything other than approved non-toxic shot while hunting ducks, geese and coots anywhere in the state. Additional shot restrictions may be in place at select state fish and wildlife areas. For details, check at the area where you plan to hunt.

### Hunting from a Boat

Migratory game birds may be hunted from a motorboat provided it is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or without motion other than that imparted by wind and current acting upon the hull, or due to hand-operated oars or paddles.

### Identification Requirements

While in the field or traveling from the field to your home, migratory game birds in your possession must have one fully feathered wing or head attached to the carcass for identification purposes.

### Wanton Waste

All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field. You may retrieve dead or injured birds by hand or from a motorboat under power, but crippled birds may not be shot from a boat under power or in motion due to motor power.

### Hunter Orange for Woodcock Hunting

Woodcock hunters must wear exposed at all times as an outer garment one or more of the following articles that is solid hunter orange in color: a vest, coat, jacket, coveralls, hat or cap.

### Hunting on state properties

Be sure to check at area headquarters concerning open hunting areas and other special regulations that are in effect on all fish and wildlife areas and reservoirs. Some properties require non-toxic shot for species other than waterfowl.

### Restrictions

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- From a sink box (a low, floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Baiting includes the placing of corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed to serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are

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attempting to take them. It is a separate offense to place or direct placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing or allowing hunters to take or attempt to take birds by the aid of bait or over a baited area. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. The maximum federal penalties are: for hunting over bait: \$15,000/6 months jail; placing bait: \$100,000/1 year jail.

- By the use of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

### Tagging Requirements

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- hunter's signature
- hunter's address
- total number of birds involved by species
- dates such birds were killed

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

### Shipping Migratory Birds

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being

sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

### Falconry Seasons

Woodcock	Sept. 20 - Oct. 2 Nov. 17- Jan. 4
Mourning Doves	Oct. 17 - Nov. 6 Jan. 1 - Jan. 26
Ducks, coots, mergansers	Sept. 27 - 30 (north zone only)

The north zone is that part of Indiana north of a line extending east from the Illinois border along SR 18 to US 31; north along US 31 to US 24; east on US 24 to Huntington; and southeast on US 224 to the Ohio Border.

Additional days occurring after Sept. 30 for ducks, coots and mergansers will be published with the late-season selections.

Daily bag limit	3 (singly or in aggregate)
Possession limit	6 (singly or in aggregate)

### Toll-free Bird Band Number

All waterfowl hunters are urged to report bird bands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 24-hour toll-free hotline:

**1-800-327-BAND**  
(1-800-327-2263)

During the hunting season, operators are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Band information is used in the management of waterfowl populations, and assists biologists in providing optimum hunting opportunities where possible.



This program receives federal aid in wildlife restoration. Under Title VI of the Civil Right Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or if you desire further information, please write to: Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (DOI), Washington, D.C. 20240.

# INDIANA

# 2003 Early Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Regulations



**Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
402 W. Washington Street, W273  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 232-4080

SPECIES	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	Daily	Poss	IN Ht	IN Wt	HIP P	Feder	≤ 3 S	Non-	Hunt
Sora Rail	Sept. 1-Nov. 9				25	25	•		•		•		
King, Clapper, Virginia Rail	closed												
Mourning Dove	Sept. 1-Oct. 16				15	30	•		•		•		
			Nov. 7-Nov. 16										
				Nov. 27-Nov. 30									
Common Moorhen	Sept. 1-Nov. 9				15	30	•		•		•		
Woodcock		Oct. 3-Nov. 16			3	6	•		•		•		•
Common Snipe	Sept. 1-Dec. 16				8	16	•		•		•		
Teal (Blue- and green-winged only) No teal hunting on Kankakee FWA.	Sept. 1-Sept. 16				4	8	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Canada Goose No goose hunting on Kankakee FWA and Hovey Lake FWA	Sept. 1-Sept. 15				5	10	•	•	•	•	•	•	

wildlife.IN.gov

ONLINE HUNTING TRAPPING & FISHING LICENSES

This summary of early migratory game bird hunting regulations is designed as a service to hunters and is not intended to be a complete digest of all hunting regulations. For specific details, consult the current issue of the code of federal regulations as published in the Federal Register (Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20).

These dates are subject to approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of this printing (July 2003) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not approved these dates. The federal agency will review these dates by late August. Contact the Indiana DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife for further information.